

Final Team Report for HC System: A Novel GWAPs Disaster Monitoring System

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ABSTRACT Abstract test

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUNDS

1.1.1 UNICEF

The United Nations Children's Fund[1] is a United Nations programme headquartered in New York City that provides humanitarian and developmental assistance to children and mothers in developing countries. It works in 190 countries and territories to protect the rights of every child. UNICEF has spent 70 years working to improve the lives of children and their families. Defending children's rights throughout their lives requires a global presence, aiming to produce results and understand their effects. In Syria, the UNICEF works on providing and transporting critical medicine, aid and supplies to the refugees living in the war areas. The challenges UNICEF meet is that there are many hard-to-reach (HTR) and besieged (BSG) areas and the supplies are very hard to be delivered to these zones if the UNICEF have no idea about the real time war situation and the disaster level. It will cost too much for the UNICEF which is just a Non-profit organization, if they entirely hire employees to collect the

data of war situation. Our work is to design and develop a Human Computation system by GWAPS[2].

1.1.2 HC SYSTEM AND GWAPS

Human Computation system is a paradigm for utilizing human processing power to solve problems that computers cannot yet solve[3]. It is the system of computers and large numbers of humans that work together in order to solve problems that could not be solved by either computers or humans alone[4]. Our HC system is a kind of GWAPs, which uses enjoyment as the primary means of motivating participants. One of the challenges in any human computation system is finding a way to motivate people to participate[3]. Besides the enjoyment, we will design some interactions between users and our system to make the volunteer users feel honored for their contribution.

1.2 PURPOSE OF HC SYSTEM

The users are required to select a Region Of Interests(ROI) upon the presented satellite images and tag the ROI from a provided tag list or input their own tag. Anyone can directly participant without registration, but system will record an ID of each user. Computer Graphics can also be a way to detect and recognize the map images, but it will cost too much time and money in developing recognition algorithms and currently the best computer graphics algorithm can not beat the image recognition ability of human beings. That's the reason we design the HC system to solve the problem.

1.3 HUMAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE SYSTEM

The Computer Graphic techniques and Artificial Intelligence grow very fast in recent years, however, it is still a great problem for computers to detect and recognize images accurately and fast. Nevertheless, it is a simple thing for human beings to do it. The HC system for disaster monitoring encourages more Internet users to contribute information to solve the image tagging problem by GWAPs. We developed the Player Rating Model to guarantee the quality of collected information and some interesting feedback and interaction are designed to maintain the enjoyment of players in the game. Users do some image tagging tasks in the game by their computing power and intelligent which are contributed to collect data in the map images.

2 FUNCTIONALITY OF A NOVEL HC SYSTEM

2.1 FUNCTIONALITY AS SEEN BY A PLAYER

2.1.1 DISASTER MONITORING GAME INTRODUCTION

The idea behind our human computation system is GWAP, i.e. Game with a purpose. We have built a prototype of image tagging game, which is similar to the game on Artigo.com [5]. In our game, A player can finish infinity Round tasks, a Round task contains N tagging tasks and a tagging task is to: interpret one picture. Within one round task, the player will see N pictures. Each time he/she will be asked to tag one of these pictures. At first, the player needs to draw a rectangle area which indicates that he/she has seen some objects in this area. Thoses objects are often considered as a sign of danger or damage. They are mostly like:

- “Rocket Launcher”
- “Armoured vehicles”
- “Tanks”
- “Burning building”
- “Heavy vehicle tracks”
- “sign of explosion”

Each of them has a value of disaster level, which will be used later in our (see chapter 3.2.4) for analysing the disaster level of this region. A submenu list(“Pre-Provided item list”) which contains all of these items will pop up after the area has been selected. In this step, the player can decide which one of these items matches and choose it to fill the tag. Sometimes, there may be a situation that the player does find “a sign of danger or damage”, however, he/she has no idea what it is. In this case, the player can obtain helps from the reference panel which provides the player with helpful examples. Besides, if the player does not find the expected item in the “Pre-Provided item list”, he/she can also create a new tag.

In a tagging task, the player also has a choice to add multiple tags to one picture, or he/she doesn't need to add any tags when he/she thinks that this region is safe.

After finishing one tagging task, the player will be directed to the next task till the end of the game.

2.1.2 EXAMPLES

In this section, An example of a user journey will be provided in order to illustrate the game process.

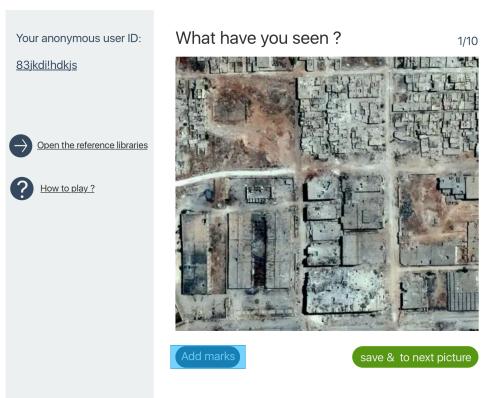


Figure 2.1: Game panel

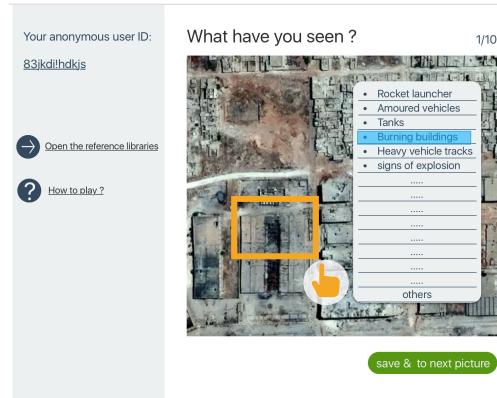


Figure 2.2: Game panel: Tag list

Imaging that User A is now at the very first begining of the game. What he will see, are a side bar on the left side, which contains some information like: user ID, game guide and a reference library, and a main panel on the right side (Figure 2.1). If User A finds a sign of damage or danger in the picture on the right side. He can click the button "add marks" and then hs is able to draw a rectangle area which indicates the location of the sign. A selection box will then pop out automatically and User A can select the suited item or add a new tag (Figure 2.2).

Like what we have already mentioned above, User A can also add multiple tags to one picture (Figure 2.3).

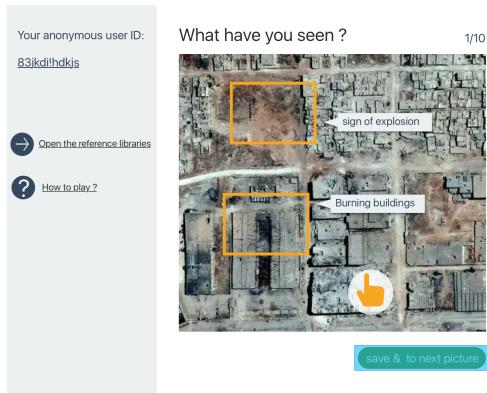


Figure 2.3: Game panel: Multiple tags

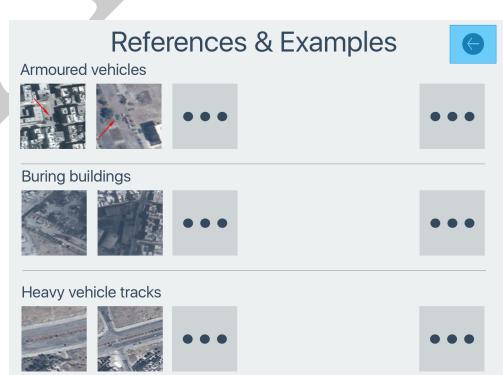


Figure 2.4: Game panel: Reference library

After User A finishes this tagging task, i.e. tagging the first picture, he can click the button "save and to the next picture" so that he can save the tags and go to the next task. Figure 2.4 illustrates how a reference library can be, whose aim is to help User A to identify different signs of danger or damage.

2.2 FUNCTIONALITY AS SEEN BY A STAKEHOLDER

In our disaster monitoring system, we take image taggings from players as our input. In the next step, we will filter and analyse the data. The final output of our work is a disaster level report in some certain region, which can be used by some organisations, like: Unicef, some NGOs and even governments.

Under this consideration, we also build a prototype for this user group, which allows them to have an overview of the disaster level and to download the report at the same time (see figure 2.5).

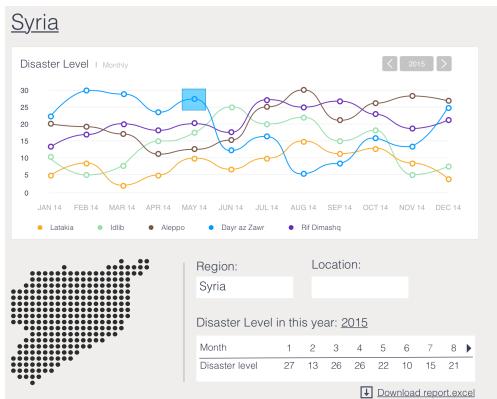


Figure 2.5: disaster level report platform

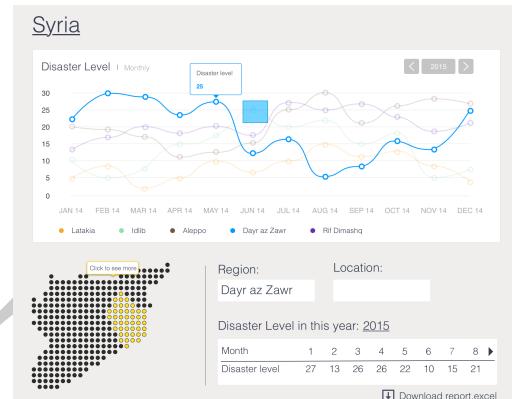


Figure 2.6: disaster level report platform

The platform is composed of a curve chart, a map and some statistics. In the curve chart, each curve shows the tendency of the yearly disaster level of a smaller region. Like here in figure 2.5, the whole region is Syria and each curve stands for a province in Syria. The user can click the "dot" on curves, which stands for the disaster level of that month. Meanwhile, the corresponding area will be highlighted on the map (figure 2.6).

In the statistic part, the user gets an overview of the yearly disaster level of a region. He/she also have the opportunity to download it. If the user wants to dig deeper, he/she can click on the highlighted area on this map, which will direct him/her to that region (figure 2.7).

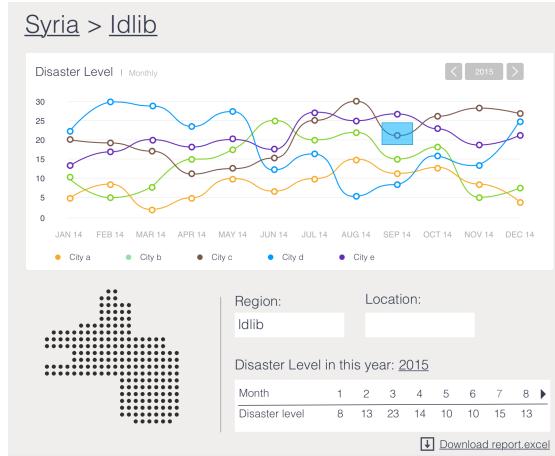


Figure 2.7: Disaster Level Report Platform

In figure 2.7, the user is directed to the province Idlib and now each curve stands for a smaller region in this province, in other words, different cities in Idlib.

3 SYSTEM DESIGN

In this section we describes the overall design in details of our disaster monitoring backend system design.

3.1 SYSTEM ARCHITECTURES

The system contains two different type of databases. The first databases **PlayerDB** combines with **TrustedDB** and **UntrustedDB** where presistent the player inputs whether the overall result is reliable or not. We designed a task generator that combines trusted results and seperate new satellite area images assign to upcomming players. A reliable player shall pass the system **Player Rating Model**. Once the task result from new player is reliable, then the system will reuse the player input into our **Disaster Evalutation Model** and presistent it in the second database **ResultDB**. Stakeholder make querys to this monitoring database. Figure 3.1 illustrate the overall disaster system design.

3.2 SYSTEM COMPONENTS

3.2.1 DATABASE FIELDS

For the convinience of model establishment, we describe the system database PlayerDB fields as well as the fields of database ResultDB in the follows listing 1 and 2:

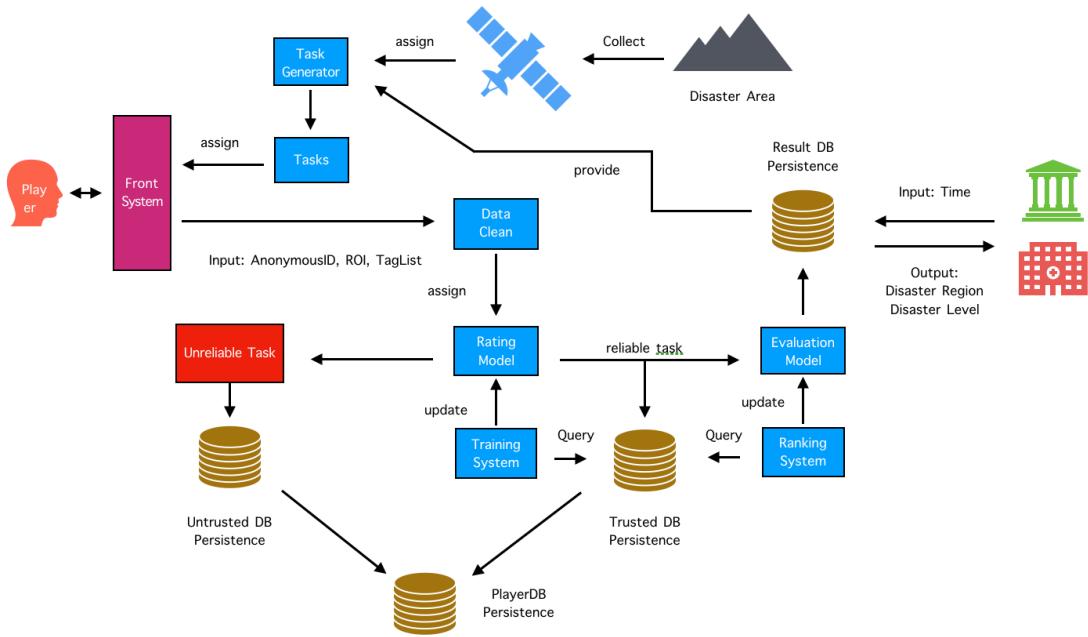


Figure 3.1: System Design Overview

```

1 [
2   {
3     "anonymous_id": number,
4     "reliable": boolean,
5     "trust_value": number
6     "tasks": [
7       {
8         "image": image_path,
9         "at": time,
10        "ROI": [
11          {
12            "latitude": number,
13            "longitude": number,
14            "tags": [tag1, tag2,
15              ...
16            ]
17          },
18        ]
19      }
20    ],
21  }
22 ]

```

Listing 1: Player Database Fields

```

1 [
2   {
3     "area_id": number,
4     "disaster_level": number,
5     "history": [
6       {
7         "at": time,
8         "image": image_path,
9         "ROI": [
10           {
11             "latitude": number,
12             "longitude": number,
13             "tags": [tag1, tag2,
14               ...
15             ]
16           },
17         ],
18       },
19     ],
20   }
21 ]

```

Listing 2: Results Database Fields

In this disaster monitoring system, our participant do not need to register an account, and the system shall assign a anonymous_id for each player, this function significantly accelerate player to participate to this game. Thus, the PlayerDB stores the anonymous_id to detect the same players if they participate next time. The player will accomplish different game tasks, each task result shall stores in the tasks filed.

In the ResultDB, an area ID is unique, and assigned by our system, the disaster_level field represents the level of this area. Each area shall be evaluated by our player, and the evaluation history stores in history field.

To explain other files, we describe few basic definition for the system model.

Definition 3.1. The **Region of Interests (ROI)** ROI_i is a player selected area of player i .

Definition 3.2. The **tags vector** T_i of player i is indicated by a vector where the components represent by the count of all tags:

$$T_i = (|tag_1|, |tag_2|, \dots, |tag_n|)$$

where

- n is the number of current exist tags;
- $|tag_n|$ is the occurrence of tag $_n$.

For instance, there are 5 different tags $tag_1, tag_2, tag_3, tag_4, tag_5$ exist in the current system, player i generates tags list $\{tag_1, tag_2, tag_3\}$, player j generates tag list $\{tag_4, tag_4, tag_5\}$. Then T_i of player i is $(1, 1, 1, 0, 0)$ and T_j of player j is $(0, 0, 0, 2, 5)$.

Definition 3.3. The **weight vector** $v = (p(tag_1), p(tag_2), \dots, p(tag_n))$ **of all tags** can be calculated by the following equation 3.1:

$$p(tag_i) = \frac{|tag_i|}{\sum_{j=1}^n |tag_j|} \quad (3.1)$$

where

- n is the number of current exist tags;
- $|tag_i|$ is the occurrence of tag $_i$.

3.2.2 PLAYER TASK GENERATOR

The **Player Task Generator (PTG)** combines images from satellite and ResultDB. In the first step, as we discussed before, to solve the imformation leakage problem, PTG shall split a monitoring region into $m \times n$ small pieces of images, and also assign a unique **areaID** for each pieces, i.e. (areaID, time) specificie a unique image for user tasks.

The second generate step is to retrieve tagged images from **ResultDB**. Then combine all images as a user task assign to a new upcomming player. Each user task contains half of untagged images and half of tagged images.

In short, The Data Model (only ouput here) for PTG is: $\{(areaID_1, time_1), \dots, (areaID_n, time_n)\}$ with areaID₁ to areaID_[n] are from satellite and areaID_{[n]+1} to areaID_n are from **ResultDB**.

3.2.3 PLAYER RATING MODEL

This subsection describes the Player Rating Model inside our Disaster Monitroing system. PageRank was first proposed by Lary Page [6] and applied to social analysis in [7]. It is commonly used for expressing the stability of physical systems and the relative importance, so-called centralities, of the nodes of a network. We transfer the basic idea of centralities and use eigenvalue as a **Trust Value (TV)** for each players to distinguish manicious players.

Considering a partial fully connected directed graph between players. Each player is a node of the Player Rating Graph (PRG) as illustrate in figure 3.2.

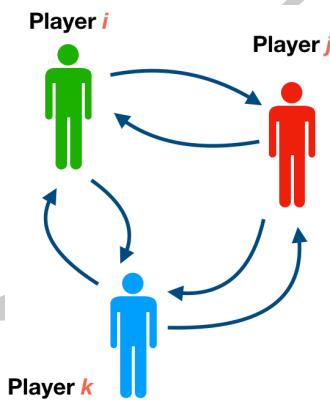


Figure 3.2: Player Rating Model

To define the edge weight, according to the database feild design of a player, each player output ROIs for each task region of a player task, and each ROI contains a tags list, thus, one can use three festures: ROI, tags, *TV*.

Definition 3.4. The weight from player *i* to player *j* can be formalized as follows formula 3.2:

$$w_{ij} = \sum_{ROI \in ROIs} TV_i \times \frac{ROI_i \cap ROI_j}{ROI_i} \left(2 - \frac{Cov(T_i, T_j; v)}{Cov(T_i, T_i; v) \times Cov(T_j, T_j; v)} \right) \quad (3.2)$$

where

- TV_i is the trust value of player *i*;
- ROI_i is the selected ROI from player *i*;

- T_i is the tags vector of player i ;
- $Cov(x, y; v)$ is the weighted covariance of x and y via v ;
- v is the weight vector of all tags.

The first part of the definition $\sum_{ROI \in ROIs}$ summarized all possible ROI between player i and player j . The theoretically item of this formula is the number of ROI from player i multiply the number of ROI from player j . Nevertheless, it can be significantly decreased in this particular scenario. Considering player i and player j with two ROIs as illustrated in figure 3.3.

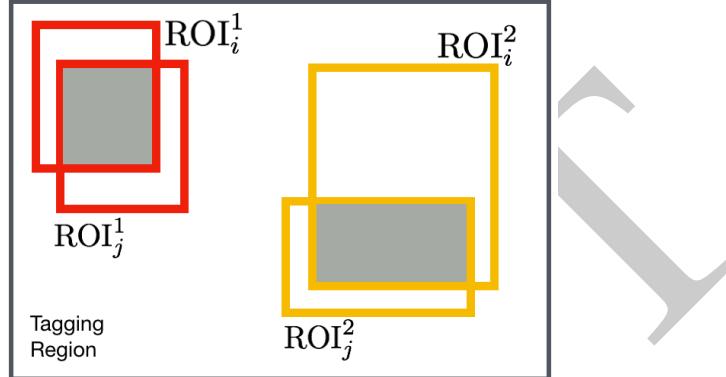


Figure 3.3: Two players with two ROIs

One can expand equation 3.2 as follows formula 3.3:

$$w_{ij} = TV_i \times \left(2 - \frac{Cov(T_i, T_j; v)}{Cov(T_i, T_i; v) \times Cov(T_j, T_j; v)} \right) \times \left(\frac{ROI_i^1 \cap ROI_j^1}{ROI_i^1} + \frac{ROI_i^1 \cap ROI_j^2}{ROI_i^1} + \frac{ROI_i^2 \cap ROI_j^1}{ROI_i^2} + \frac{ROI_i^2 \cap ROI_j^2}{ROI_i^2} \right) \quad (3.3)$$

Fortunately, the second and the third part of the expansion are equal to zero.

We call the second part $TV_i \times \frac{ROI_i \cap ROI_j}{ROI_i}$ of formula 3.2 as **Matching Area Ratio (MAR)**. It was inspired by a common computer vision criteria, the so called Intersection over Union (IoU), also called Jaccard Index in mathematics[8], which is the standard performance measure that is commonly used for the object category segmentation problem. Nevertheless, MAR is not equal to the IoU of ROIs of player i and player j since it only uses the ROI of player i as denominator instead of the union of ROIs of player i and player j , which leads the difference between MAR and IoU. There are two reasons to use MAR instead of IoU: Firstly, IoU as weight of graph causes the directed graph to an undirected graph due to the IoU of player i to j is as same as the IoU of player j to i ; Furthermore, player i as the evaluator from i to j should be the performance base.

The third part $\frac{Cov(T_i, T_j; v)}{Cov(T_i, T_i; v) \times Cov(T_j, T_j; v)}$ of formula 3.2 is applied by Weighted Pearson Correlation Coefficient.

To calculate the eigenvalue of the ajacency matrix of PRG, one can use the normalized ajacency matrix through the following formula 3.4:

$$A = (a_{ij}) = \left(\frac{w_{ij}}{\sum_j w_{ij}} \right) \quad (3.4)$$

Theorem 1. *Matrix A is irreducible, real, non-negative, column-stochastic, and diagonal element being positive.*

Proof. Irreducibility: A is normalized through an ajacency matrix of a strong connected player rating graph, which proves A is irreducible.

Real elements: Trivial.

Non-negative elements: We only need to prove TV_i , $\frac{|ROI_i \cap ROI_j|}{ROI_i}$ and $2 - \frac{Cov(T_i, T_j; v)}{Cov(T_i, T_i; v) \times Cov(T_j, T_j; v)}$ are non-negative respectively. TV_i is the eigenvalues of normalized graph ajacency matrix, thus the codomain of TV_i lies $(0, 1]$; For MAR, its range is obviously from 0 to 1, which lies $[0, 1]$; For $2 - \frac{Cov(T_i, T_j; v)}{Cov(T_i, T_i; v) \times Cov(T_j, T_j; v)}$, the Pearson Correlation lies on $[-1, 1]$, then this part lies on $[1, 3]$. Three parts are non-negative.

Positive diagonal elements: The diagonal elements can be formalized by follows:

$$w_{ii} = \sum_{ROI \in ROIs} TV_i \times \frac{|ROI_i \cap ROI_i|}{ROI_i} \left(2 - \frac{Cov(T_i, T_i; v)}{Cov(T_i, T_i; v) \times Cov(T_i, T_i; v)} \right) = \sum_{ROI \in ROIs} TV_i > 0$$

Column stochastic: according to the definition of matrix A, the sum of the column elements is:

$$\sum_i \frac{w_{ij}}{\sum_j w_{ij}} = \frac{\sum_i w_{ij}}{\sum_j w_{ij}} = 1$$

□

We has proved the existence and uniqueness of eigenvalues of normalized PRG ajacency matrix, one can use the corresponding eigenvalues to represent the trust value of players. Thus, we have:

Definition 3.5. A Trust Value TV_i of player i represents by the i -th eigenvalue of normalized PRG ajacency matrix A

This definition can represents the rating score from i to j . With the trust value of players, we

propose our classification algorithm:

Algorithm 1: Player Classification Algorithm

```

input : anonymous IDs, TVs
output: (anonymous_id, isReliable)
Calculate  $TV_{new}$  as the trust value of player  $new$  ;
if  $TV_{new} \geq \frac{1}{|players|} \sum_{i \in players} TV_i$  then
    | return (anonymous_id, true)
else
    | return (anonymous_id, false)
end
```

In this algorithm, the criterion of classify new players performs the action that the trust value of new player should not less than the mean value of overall trust value of players, which means the tagging performance of new player should not worth than result performance of former players.

Therefore in short, the input and output Data Model of PRM are as follows. For input: (anonymous_id, area_id, time, ROIs, tags); For model output: (anonymous_id, TV).

3.2.4 DISASTER EVALUATION MODEL

For an area at time t , we address the **Disaster Evaluation Model (DEM)** via disaster level definition as follows:

Definition 3.6. The **Disaster Level (DL)** of a monitor region is calculated by each area components:

$$DL = \sum_{area \in region} DL_{area}$$

where DL_{area} is calculated by its corresponding tag vector:

$$DL_{area} = \sum_{i=1}^n v_i \times |tag_i|$$

with n is the number of current exist tags, and $|tag_i|$ is the occurrence of tag_i in the corresponding area.

System like ESP[9], ARTigo[5] has proved that human inputs are valuable and useful.

Note that sometimes player carries new tags for our system, we also address a solution for this issue via the following steps:

- When a player carries predefined tags: Trivial;
- When a player carries new tags: Directly drop, it is an unreliable result;

- When a player carries predefined tags and also new tags: calculate the trust value without new tags; merge and update all weight vector v via formula 3.2 if the player is reliable, otherwise drop and mark the result is unreliable.

With this definition 3.6, we can calculate the disaster level for a monitoring region. To sum up, the input and the output Data Model of DEM addresse as follows. For input: (time), (area_id) or (area_id, time); For output: (area_id, time, disaster_level).

3.2.5 MODEL INITIALIZATION AND SYSTEM COLD START

A cold start of such a system is a common problem in human computation system that is avoided by hiring people to play or learn as long as the number of users or the quantity of data is insufficient. In our system, we have two different cold start problem.

The first cold start problem appears in the PTG. To initialize the whole system, we need address a initial trusted group for PTG, they shall tagging enought initial trusted result for PTG and then assign to new upcomming players. When a new player is reliable, then the result of this player will become reliable. Meanwhile, the trusted group and available dataset become larger with this step repeatedly, as shown in figure 3.4.

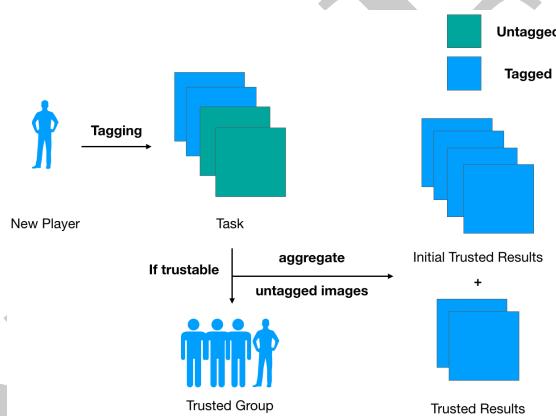


Figure 3.4: Cold Start of PTG

The second cold start problem appears in PRM. According to the definition ?? of PRG, the weight of PRG was defined by the trust value of all players. Nevertheless the initial trusted group has no trust value. Thus we need a initial value for TV . Note that TV_i is in between of 0 and 1, thus:

$$TV_i^{init} = \frac{1}{|\text{players}^{init}|}$$

with $|\text{players}^{init}|$ is the number of initial trusted group.

SUMMARY We have described our monitoring system in general and also detailed. It contains the following components:

- Persistent Databases
- Player Task Generator
- Player Rating Model
- Disaster Evaluation Model

With these components, model and databases, the disaster monitoring system is able to handling common problems in HC system, such as cold start, malicious detection etc. It is also expandable, portable and can be easily apply to any other same image selection and tagging human computation system in different areas.

4 SYSTEM EVALUATION AND SUCCESS CRITERIA

4.1 EVALUATION AND SUCCESS CRITERIA

4.1.1 MODEL EVALUATION

Malicious player detection is a classification problem. One can generate random data and test the Rating Model through accuracy and recall, even ROC curve [10].

The click behavior has been researched for years and address by FFitts Law [11]. It modeled and proved the distribution of click behavior for a certain click goal point is a normal distribution. Thus, with probabilistic view, the top left corner of ROI exists, then the user click selection for this point should follows normal distribution, as shown in figure 4.1.

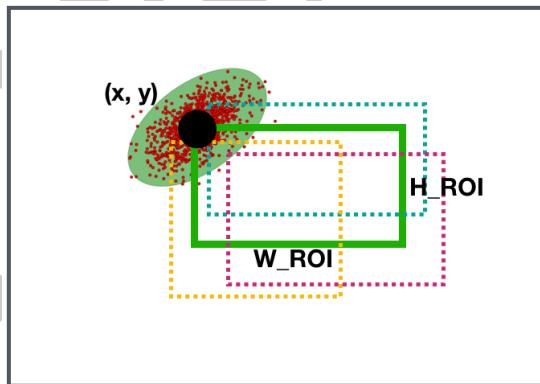


Figure 4.1: Data Simulation

Therefore, to generate ROIs, let (x, y) is the player ROI start point, (H_{ROI}, W_{ROI}) is the height

and width pair of this ROI, then we generate the random dataset for these variables by a given parameter δ : $(x, y) \sim (x + N(0, \delta), y + N(0, \delta))$, $(H_{ROI}, W_{ROI}) \sim (H_{ROI} + N(0, \delta), W_{ROI} + N(0, \delta))$. To generate tags, we propose randomly pick random number of tags.

Then once can perform this random dataset on our system to evaluate the classification accuracy and recall rate to evaluate the overall performance of this system.

4.1.2 ISSUES ON SOCIAL AND ETHICAL ASPECTS

4.2 LIMITATION OF THE SYSTEM

4.2.1 EVALUATION OUTDATE

A limitation occurs in our social network based model is each disaster level evaluation get invalid if the region image outdate. We assume the satellite monitors a region and take picutre between intervals. However, our evaluation model only calculate the disaster level in a unique moment, which means the disaster level need transvaluation when a new image come out. If our player are not enough so that the region images always have to wait new evaluation, then the disaster level will never be calculated.

A possible solution is to consider the region disaster level history as a time series. Then we can apply some prediction method for it. For instance, we have time series: $(t_1, t_2, t_3, \dots, t_n)$ and its corresponding disaster level: $(DL_1, DL_2, DL_3, \dots, DL_n)$. Then we can use these time series to predict the disaster level at time t_{n+1} .

At the same time, we also have the historical data of trust value of a player. We can also use time series prediction to predict the players trust value. But in all of these, the time series of disaster level is not stationary but the time series of trust value is stationary.

4.2.2 INFORMATION LOSS

We cut big region images into small fragement areas to prevent leakage of data. But this method will cause some information loss problem if some important ROIs are located at the intersection of two dividing lines. A possible solution for this limitation is to cut the big image with a random distance between two adjacency dividing lines, as shown in figure 4.2.

4.2.3 GAMEPLAY AND PLAYABILITY

The HC system collect satellite photos of disaster areas. But even if in the disaster areas, not every part of the areas has disaster. Most parts of the earth are lake, forest, desert and so on, which means the users may meet the situation that there is no available ROI in several continuous rounds. Obviously, it will decrease the playability and enjoyment of the game. Our system is just a very simple tagging game at present, users can not get enough enjoyment they

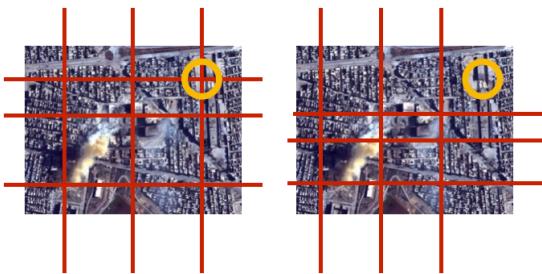


Figure 4.2: Information Loss Solution

want in it. And it is too reliant on the unpaid volunteers to donate their time to contribute information. We should make the system more interesting and appealing in the future work.

5 CONCLUTION & FUTURE WORKS

5.1 CONCLUTION

5.2 POSSIBLE EXTENSIONS OF THE HC SYSTEM

5.3 THOUGHTS ON INTERACTION WITH OTHER HC SYSTEM

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